

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION AT  
LAND AT TROUT ROAD,  
WEST DRAYTON,  
LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON**

**FEBRUARY 2007**

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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WEST DRAYTON  
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EVALUATION

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# **An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Trout Road, West Drayton, London Borough of Hillingdon**

**Central National Grid Reference: TQ 055 807**

**Site Code: TDH 06**

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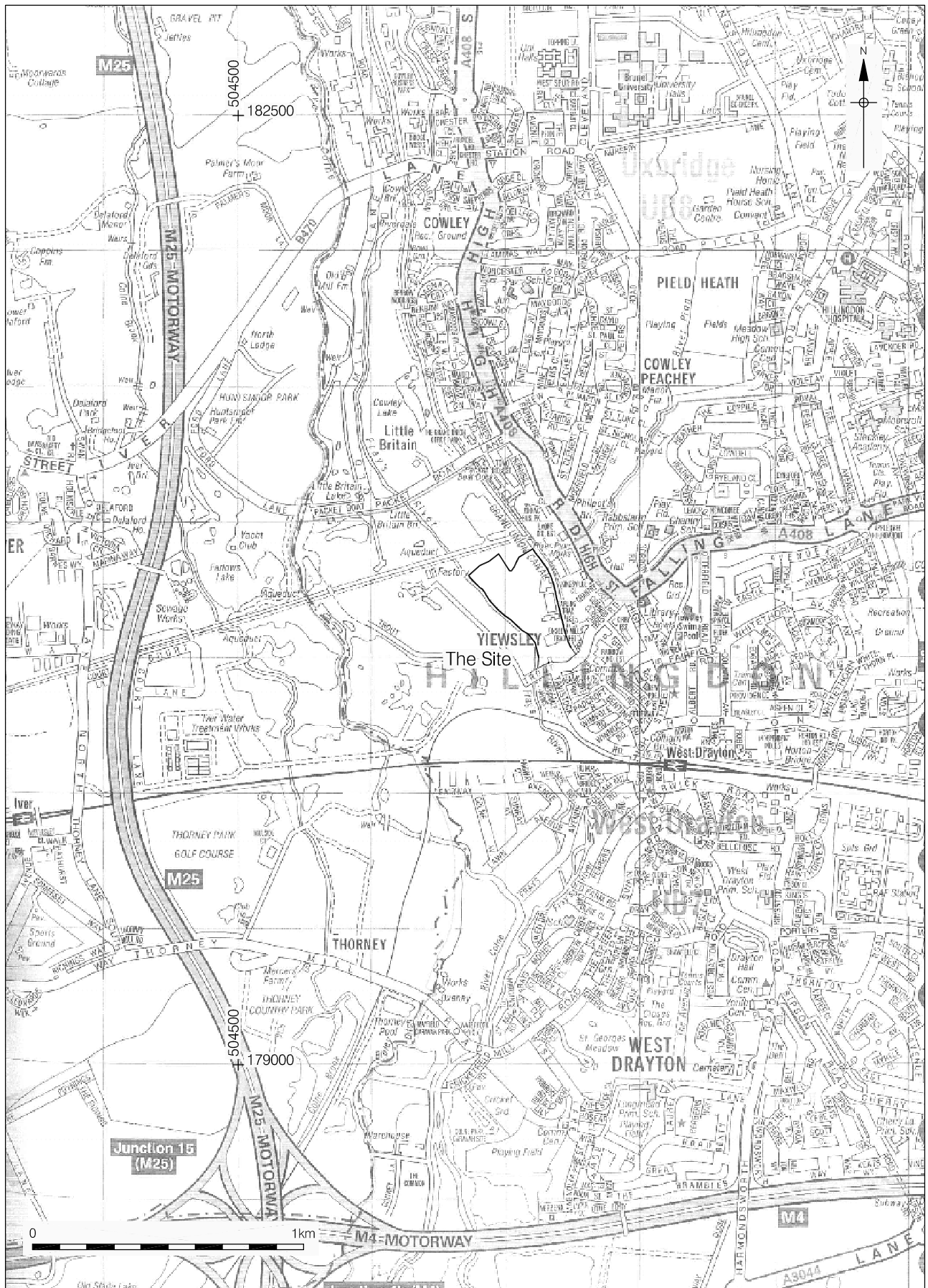
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## **1 ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the former Honeywell factory on Trout Road, West Drayton, London Borough of Hillingdon. The central National Grid Reference for this site is TQ 055 807. The field evaluation was undertaken in two phases: the first phase between 4th December and 8th December 2006, and the second phase between 22nd January and 25th January 2007. The commissioning client was Lorraine Darton of CgMs Consulting working on behalf of George Wimpey Ltd.
- 1.2 The evaluation followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (Darton & Chadwick 2006) which proposed the excavation of 9 trenches across the site, to follow a program of remediation necessitated by contamination. A Desk-Based Assessment of the site (Chadwick 2003) had previously suggested that the majority of the site lay within the floodplain of the River Colne, but that an isolated gravel island may be present in the northern area. The evaluation was targeted at both floodplain and gravel island areas.
- 1.3 The earliest deposits encountered were natural clay and waterlain gravels, from the top of which traces of residual pre-historic material were recovered. Sealing the natural was post-medieval subsoil, which was truncated in the majority of the trenches by both 19th Century activity associated with the construction of the Uxbridge branch of the Great Western Railway, and latterly by industrial workings.
- 1.4 No discrete archaeological features were found on site.

## 2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 An archaeological site investigation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd at the site of the former Honeywell factory on Trout Road, West Drayton, London Borough of Hillingdon (Figure 1). The evaluation was conducted in two phases: the first between 4th December and 8th December 2006, and the second between 22nd January and 25th January 2007, in advance of residential redevelopment at the site. The site covers an area of approximately 9 hectares, and is bordered to the north and west by the River Pinn and Fray's River, to the east by the Grand Union Canal, and to the south by Trout Road. The evaluation followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (Darton & Chadwick 2006) which proposed the excavation and recording of nine trial trenches, which were to determine the archaeological potential of the site.
- 2.2 The evaluation was commissioned by Lorraine Darton of CgMs Consulting, on behalf of George Wimpey Ltd, and was supervised for Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd by Mark Bagwell and James Langthorne. It was project managed by Chris Mayo, and was monitored by Jill Hummerstone of English Heritage on behalf of the London Borough of Hillingdon.
- 2.3 The evaluation was programmed to follow the remediation of the site, necessitated by the sites previous industrial usage. Phase 1 was targeted at the southern floodplain areas, while Phase 2 was targeted at the potential gravel island in the northern part of the site (Figure 2).
- 2.4 The completed archive comprising written, drawn and photographic records will be deposited with the London Archaeology Archive Resource Centre (LAARC).
- 2.5 The site was allocated the site code: TDH 06.



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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000 at A4



Figure 2  
Trench Locations  
1:1,000 at A3



### 3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In November 1990 the Department of the Environment issued Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) "Archaeology and Planning", providing guidance for planning authorities, property owners, developers and others on the preservation and investigation of archaeological remains.
- 3.2 In considering any planning application for development, the local planning authority will be guided by the policy framework set by government guidance, in this instance PPG16, by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations.
- 3.3 The relevant Development Plan framework is provided by the London Plan, published in February 2004. The Plan contains the following policy relating to archaeology in London:

"POLICY 4B.14: ARCHAEOLOGY  
THE MAYOR, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE, THE MUSEUM OF LONDON AND BOROUGHs, WILL SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION, PROTECTION, INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF LONDON'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES. BOROUGHs IN CONSULTATION WITH ENGLISH HERITAGE AND OTHER RELEVANT STATUTORY ORGANISATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE APPROPRIATE POLICIES IN THEIR UDPS FOR PROTECTING SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSETS WITHIN THEIR AREA.

- 3.4 The London Borough of Hillingdon Unitary Development Plan, adopted in September 1998, contains the following policies which provides a framework for the consideration of development proposals affecting archaeological and heritage features:

POLICY BE2 ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY ALLOW DEVELOPMENT TO TAKE PLACE IF IT WOULD DISTURB REMAINS OF IMPORTANCE WITHIN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIORITY AREAS.

POLICY BE2A SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND THEIR SETTINGS WILL BE PRESERVED.

POLICY BE3 THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY WILL ENSURE, WHENEVER PRACTICABLE THAT SITES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST ARE INVESTIGATED AND RECORDED EITHER BEFORE ANY NEW BUILDINGS, SITE WORKS, GOLF COURSE OR GRAVEL EXTRACTION ARE STARTED, OR DURING EXCAVATION AND CONSTRUCTION. DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD DESTROY IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

- 3.5 The site does not lie within a conservation or archaeological priority area, as defined by the UDP's plan of Archaeological Priority Areas (Chadwick, 2003).

## **4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY**

### **4.1 Geology**

- 4.1.1 The Institute of Geological Sciences has shown that the solid geology of the area comprises the London Clay deposits that form the London Basin, with outcroppings of Reading Beds and Upper Chalk a short distance to the north.
- 4.1.2 Additionally it is clear from the 1:50000 series Geological Survey (Sheet 255) that the site is also covered by Drift deposits of alluvium over river gravels. These deposits, which overlie the London Clay, date from both the Pleistocene and more recent times.
- 4.1.3 Geotechnical data collected from the study site in 2001 and 2002 indicates that made ground varying from about 1.5m to 3m deep overlies clay and silt deposits which in turn overlie a gently undulating mixed sand and gravel surface. These sands and gravels are typically manifest at between 25.9m OD and 26.5m OD, except in one area where the height is recorded as being between 27.85m OD and 28.15m OD. This particular area is postulated as being the site of a sub-surface 'island' of gravel (Chadwick 2003).

### **4.2 Topography**

- 4.2.1 The site lies on the flood plain of the River Colne, the main channel of which lies 600m to the west of the study site. The study site is in even closer proximity to two other rivers, the Pinn and the Fray, which currently lie immediately to the north and west. The confluence of these two rivers has migrated southwards through the study site throughout the Holocene.
- 4.2.2 The site is located on slightly undulating ground, varying in height from about 28.50m OD to 29.60m OD.
- 4.2.3 The evaluation revealed a similar sequence to that suggested by the geotechnical investigation. Made ground in all trenches overlay alluvium clay in seven of them, recorded at heights between 27.38m OD and 26.21m OD. The alluvium sealed either natural clay deposits (in three trenches) or natural sand and gravel in the remaining six trenches, recorded at heights between 27.27m OD and 25.65m OD. These heights suggest that the sites natural topography is formed of undulating gravel and sand with braided stream channels aligned approximately northwest-southeast through the site (Figure 4).

## **5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

### **5.1 General**

5.1.1 The archaeological and historical background to this site has been laid out in full in the Desk Based Assessment (Chadwick 2003). The following is a summary of that document.

### **5.2 Prehistoric**

5.2.1 It is known that the margins of flood plains are occupied from the Late Glacial period. Mesolithic and Neolithic activity was typically confined to the edge of the gravel terrace in the immediate area around Uxbridge, north of the study site, but by the Bronze Age a large area of the gravel terrace was cleared for farming. This is also true of the area to the south of the study site at Staines at the point of the confluence of the Thames and the Lower Colne Valley. Archaeological investigations of these areas have also suggested that much of this activity would have been seasonal, such as grazing or harvesting reed thatch, and leaving little archaeological evidence.

5.2.2 Based on this research it was therefore concluded that the only area of the study site that could potentially contain evidence of prehistoric occupation would be an area of high gravel located in the north-eastern part of the site.

### **5.3 Roman**

5.3.1 No known Roman settlement or road lies with in the vicinity of the study site. This, coupled with a complete absence of stray finds found in the surrounding area, has led to the conclusion that there was a very low potential for finding Roman activity.

### **5.4 Saxon / Medieval**

5.4.1 Due to the study sites location on the flood plain, and thus the attendant risks for any form of settlement, a limited potential for finding Saxon or Medieval remains was identified on the study site.

### **5.5 Post-Medieval**

5.5.1 The flood plain (referred to as a 'Moor' on John Rocque's map of 1754) was uninhabited throughout much of the historic period. However, with the creation of the

Grand Junction (later 'Union) Canal in 1796, which forms the eastern boundary of the site, and the construction of the Great Western Railway, which ran through West Drayton by the 1840s, residential and commercial activity within the area began to develop rapidly.

5.5.2 A degree of manipulation and control of the water courses was possible as a result of these extensive civil engineering projects in the area, rendering the study site flood-free. This is indicated by the two large houses occupying the southern area of the study site on the OS map of 1885.

5.5.3 The biggest development within the study site was the construction of the Uxbridge Branch railway line which ran south-west to north-east, bisecting the site. This railway and associated embankment was extant until the late 20th Century, when, between 1975 and 2002, sections of it were demolished.

5.5.4 Since the 1950's until the present demolition works, the study site has been principally used for industrial purposes.

## 6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 6.1 The excavation of nine trenches was outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Lorraine Darton of CgMs Consulting (2006). In addition to the general aim to assess the presence or absence of significant archaeological remains, which may require further investigation, the fieldwork was designed to assess three specific criteria. Firstly, to clarify the impact of modern development and recent remediation, in order to gauge the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits. Secondly, to assess the depth and topography of the buried deposits across the site. Thirdly, to establish the presence and character of any prehistoric settlement and activity within their contemporary environments.
- 6.2 Due to the presence of numerous groundwater wells on site which had to be maintained, trench positions were adapted slightly (Fig 2). One trench, Trench 3, was split into two (Trench 3A and 3B), both measuring approximately 10.0m by 1.0m at base. All other trenches were approximately 20.0m by 2.0m at base (Figure 2).
- 6.3 Following necessary concrete breaking at surface level, all trenches were excavated with a mechanical excavator fitted with a flat-bladed ditching bucket in spits of between 150mm and 250mm under the supervision of an archaeologist, until natural ground or the first significant archaeological horizon was reached. During Phase I five trenches were excavated (Trenches 5-9) across the southern and central portions of the site. The remaining five trenches (Trenches 1, 2, 3A, 3B, and 4) were excavated during Phase II. This phase was centred on the possible gravel island in the northeast of the site.
- 6.4 Following machine excavation, trenches were cleaned using hand tools. Substantial quantities of groundwater in the Phase II trenches required pumping. It was noticed that the groundwater contained petrochemical-type residues, and this had implications for the investigation of Trenches 1 to 4.
- 6.5 All deposits were recorded on *proforma* context sheets, trench plans being drawn at a scale of 1:50 and the sections at a scale of 1:10. The locations of the trenches were surveyed using a total station theodolite. All trenches were photographed in black and white print, colour slide and digital formats. All finds were retained for dating purposes during both phases.
- 6.6 Six temporary benchmarks were set up on the site, transferred from a spot height of 27.68m OD on a manhole immediately to the south of the study site's main gate.

## **7 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE**

### **7.1 Phase 1 – Underlying Natural Deposits**

7.1.1 In Trenches 3A, 3B, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9, waterlain gravels were encountered (referred to as [34], [37], [41], [20], [10], [5] and [14] respectively). These deposits were a mid-dark grey in colour, with occasional gritty or sandy patches. A piece of fine-grained brown flint was found in Trench 8 at the surface of layer [5]. It was a Mesolithic obliquely truncated blade, with the very tip broken off and truncation made on its' proximal end. The blade was in good condition and was unlikely to have travelled very far. The gravels were recorded at a height of 26.34m OD in Trench 3A, 25.98m OD in Trench 3B, 26.16m OD in Trench 4, 27.08m OD in Trench 6, 25.65m OD in Trench 7, 26.62m OD in Trench 8, and 26.61m OD in Trench 9. Though these heights fluctuate across the site, the gravel in the north-eastern corner (Trenches 3A, 3B, and 4) is not at a significantly different level to that found throughout the rest of the site, and therefore the 'gravel island' suggested by previous geotechnical work may be attributable to undulations in the gravel rather than an 'island' (see Table 1).

7.1.2 In Trenches 1, 2, and 5, the natural ground was seen to be a light-mid orange-brown clay with no inclusions (referred to as [25], [29], and [18] respectively). This deposit was encountered at a height of 26.34m OD in Trench 1, 27.27m OD in Trench 2, and 27.17m OD in Trench 5. These are closely comparable to the recorded heights of the gravel, and imply that the natural topography is formed of gravel with undulations filled by riverine clay deposits (see Table 1).

### **7.2 Phase 2 – Alluvial deposits**

7.2.1 Overlying the natural clay in Trench 1 and the gravels in Trenches 3A, 3B, 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 were various alluvial deposits, either silty clays or silty sands (see Table 1).

7.2.2 The alluvium in Trenches 1, 7, and 8 (referred to as [24], [9], and [4] respectively) was a soft dark-mid bluish grey silty sand with moderate flint gravel, occasional charcoal, and occasional bone inclusions. In Trench 1 there was also a large amount of driftwood within the layer. It was encountered at a maximum height of 26.97m OD in Trench 1, 26.21m OD in Trench 7, and 27.01m OD in Trench 8. Burnt flint was recovered from this layer, [4], in Trench 8, but its alluvial context makes its origin uncertain. The thickness of these layers varied between 0.35m – 0.65m.

7.2.3 Distinct from the character of the first alluvium, Trenches 3A, 3B, and 6 contained mid brown-orange silty clay alluvium with very occasional charcoal flecks and flint pebble inclusions (referred to as [33], [36], and [19] respectively). No finds were associated with these layers. They were encountered at heights of 27.04m OD in Trench 3A, 27.05m OD in Trench 3B, and 27.38m OD in Trench 6, and were between 0.80m – 0.99m thick.

7.2.4 Two deposits of alluvial clay were also recorded: [40] in Trench 4 and [13] in Trench 9. Layer [40] was a light-mid bluish-grey clay with occasional white calcareous inclusions. It was 1.05m thick and reached a maximum height of 27.08m OD. Layer [13] was a dark orange sandy clay with occasional small flint pebble inclusions. Measuring up to 0.70m thick, it reached a height of 27.05m OD.

Phase 1: Underlying Natural Deposits						Phase 2: Alluvial Deposits		
Gravel			Clay			Alluvium		
Tr	Context	Height	Tr	Context	Height	Tr	Context	Height
7	10	25.65	1	25	26.34	7	9	26.21
3b	37	25.98	5	18	27.17	1	24	26.97
4	41	26.16	2	29	27.27	8	4	27.01
3a	34	26.34	3a	-	-	3a	33	27.04
9	14	26.61	3b	-	-	3b	36	27.05
8	5	26.62	4	-	-	9	13	27.05
6	20	27.08	6	-	-	4	40	27.08
1	-	-	7	-	-	6	19	27.38
2	-	-	8	-	-	2	-	-
5	-	-	9	-	-	5	-	-
<b>Highest</b>		<b>27.08</b>	<b>Highest</b>		<b>27.27</b>	<b>Highest</b>		<b>27.38</b>
<b>Average</b>		<b>26.35</b>	<b>Average</b>		<b>26.93</b>	<b>Average</b>		<b>26.97</b>
<b>Lowest</b>		<b>25.65</b>	<b>Lowest</b>		<b>26.34</b>	<b>Lowest</b>		<b>26.21</b>

**Table 1: Heights (m OD) of Natural and Alluvial Deposits**

### 7.3 Phase 3 –Sub-Soil Layers

7.3.1 Overlying the alluvial deposits in Trenches 1, 3A, 3B and 4 was a sequence of sub-soils, concentrated in the northeastern part of the site where the ground had remained unaffected by post-medieval and modern activity.

7.3.2 The earliest layer within this phase was [23] in Trench 1, a firm light-grey sandy clay with occasional pea grit and manganese fleck inclusions. It resembled a more compact, lighter version of the alluvium [24] below it, and suggests a period when this area of the floodplain dried out. Layer [23] was 0.60m thick and reached a height of 27.57m OD. No finds were recovered from it.

7.3.3 Trenches 3A and 4 also contained sub-soils. In Trench 3A, a loose greyish-brown sandy silt [32], measuring 0.26m thick and at an upper height of 27.30m OD, was overlain by a compact mid brown sandy clay layer [31], which was 0.46m thick and at a height of 27.70m OD. In Trench 4 a loose mid grey-brown sandy silt, [39], was 0.21m thick at an upper height of 27.32m OD. No finds were recovered from these layers.

7.3.4 In all four trenches the subsoil layers were sealed by a compact mid orange-brown sandy clay with moderate flint pebble and occasional CBM fleck inclusions. This layer was referred to as [22] in Trench 1, [30] in Trench 3A, [35] in Trench 3B, and [38] in Trench 4. It was interpreted as a subsoil and ranged in thickness between 0.53m (Trench 3A) and 1.25m (Trench 4). It reached a height of 28.73mOD in Trench 1, 28.25m OD in Trench 3A, 28.17m OD in Trench 3B, 28.10m OD in Trench 4. No finds were recovered from this layer.

7.3.5 A thin layer of more weathered subsoil was found in Trench 1, sealing layer [22]. It was a loose, dark grey-brown sandy silt with inclusions of frequent pea grit, brick and CBM fragments and root activity as well as a moderate amount of small pebbles. It was only 0.21m thick and reached a height of 28.96m OD.

#### **7.4 Phase 4 – 19th Century Made Ground / Railway Embankment**

7.4.1 Layers of made ground were recorded in Trenches 2, 5, 7, 8 and 9; these are interpreted as the remains of groundworks associated with the Uxbridge branch of the Great Western Railway which can be seen from historical maps to have bisected the site (Chadwick 2003). Finds from within the layers dated them to the 19th Century.

7.4.2 In Trench 2 the made ground consisted of two layers, [27] and [28], which had a combined maximum thickness of 1.30m and reached a height of 28.39m OD. Similarly Trench 5 comprised two layers, [16] and [17], which had a combined maximum thickness of 1.00m and reached a height of 28.28m OD. Trench 7 also contained two layers, [7] and [8], which had a combined maximum thickness of 1.28m and reached a height of 27.46m OD. Trench 8 revealed three distinct layers, [1], [2] and [3], which had a combined maximum thickness of 1.68m and reached a height of 28.49m OD. Trench 9 had only a single layer, [12], which was 0.60m thick and reached a height of 27.75m OD. The layers comprised a mix of red brick rubble and dark brown clay.

#### **7.5 Phase 5 – 20th Century Deposits**



7.5.1 The upper layers in Trenches 2, 4, 7 and 9 were formed of various concrete slabs and levelling sand (referred to as [26], [15], [6] and [11] respectively). These layers are the remnants of the various industrial works that were extant on the site just prior to recent demolition. Layer [26] was 1.05m thick and reached a height of 29.44m OD, [15] was 1.10m thick and reached a height of 29.21m OD, [6] was 0.39m thick and reached a height of 27.82m OD, and [11] was 0.45m thick and reached a height of 28.57m OD.

## **8 TRENCH SUMMARY**

### **8.1 Trench 1 (Figures 2 & 3)**

8.1.1 Trench 1 revealed natural clay [25] overlain by sandy clay alluvium [24]. The alluvium was overlain by a 'dried out' alluvium / subsoil interface [23], which was sealed by subsoils [22] and [21].

8.1.2 No discrete archaeological features were seen in Trench 1.

### **8.2 Trench 2 (Figure 2)**

8.2.1 Trench 2 revealed natural clay [29] overlain by 19th Century made ground [28] and [27], which formed the Uxbridge Railway Branch embankment. The clay was sealed by modern sand and concrete [26].

8.2.2 No discrete archaeological features were seen in Trench 2.

### **8.3 Trench 3A (Figure 2)**

8.3.1 Trench 3A revealed natural gravels [34] overlain by alluvium [33]. The alluvium was sealed by sandy silt subsoil [32], which was in turn overlain by subsoils [31] and [30].

8.3.2 No discrete archaeological features were seen in Trench 3A.

### **8.4 Trench 3B (Figure 2)**

8.4.1 Trench 3B revealed natural gravels [37] overlain by silty clay alluvium [36]. The alluvium was sealed by subsoil [35].

8.4.2 No discrete archaeological features were seen in Trench 3B.

### **8.5 Trench 4 (Figure 2)**

8.5.1 Trench 4 revealed natural gravels [41] overlain by alluvium [40]. The alluvium was sealed by subsoils [39] and [38].

8.5.2 No discrete archaeological features were seen in Trench 4.

## **8.6 Trench 5 (Figure 2)**

8.6.1 Trench 5 revealed natural clay [18] overlain by 19th Century made ground layers [17] and [16]. These were sealed by modern levelling material [15].

8.6.2 No discrete archaeological features were seen in Trench 5.

## **8.7 Trench 6 (Figure 2)**

8.7.1 Trench 6 contained natural gravels [20] overlain by silty clay alluvium [19]. This was sealed by modern material [+].

8.7.2 No discrete archaeological features were seen in Trench 6.

## **8.8 Trench 7 (Figures 2 & 3)**

8.8.1 Trench 7 revealed natural gravels [10] overlain by alluvium [9]. The alluvium was sealed by 19th Century made ground layers [8] and [7]. These were sealed by modern levelling material [6].

8.8.2 No discrete archaeological features were seen in Trench 7.

## **8.9 Trench 8 (Figure 2)**

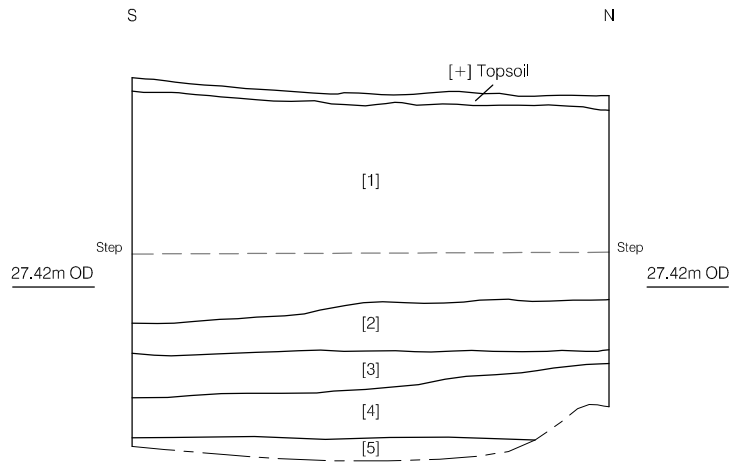
8.9.1 Trench 8 revealed natural gravels [5] overlain by alluvium [4]. A single piece of fine-grained brown flint was found at the surface of layer [5]. It was a Mesolithic obliquely truncated blade, with the very tip broken off and truncation made on its' proximal end. The blade was in good condition and was unlikely to have travelled very far, although its discovery at the interface of the gravel and alluvium implies that it could have been washed in. The alluvium was sealed by 19th Century made ground layers [3], [2] and [1]. The made ground was, in turn, sealed by modern levelling material [+].

8.9.2 No discrete archaeological features were seen in Trench 8.

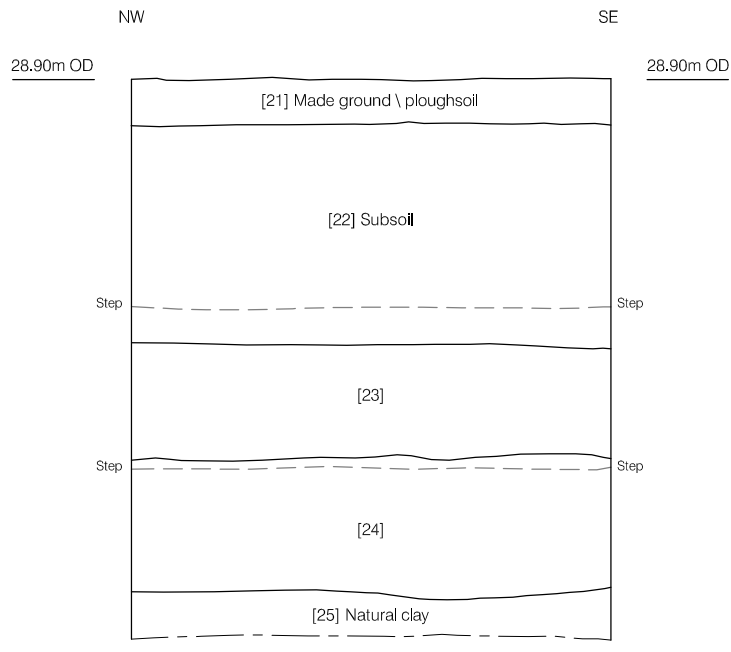
## **8.10 Trench 9 (Figure 2)**

8.10.1 Trench 9 revealed natural gravels [14] overlain by alluvium [13], which was in turn overlaid by 19th Century made ground [12]. This layer of made ground was, sealed by modern levelling material and concrete slab [11].

8.10.2 No discrete archaeological features were encountered in Trench 9.



Section 1  
East facing  
Trench 8

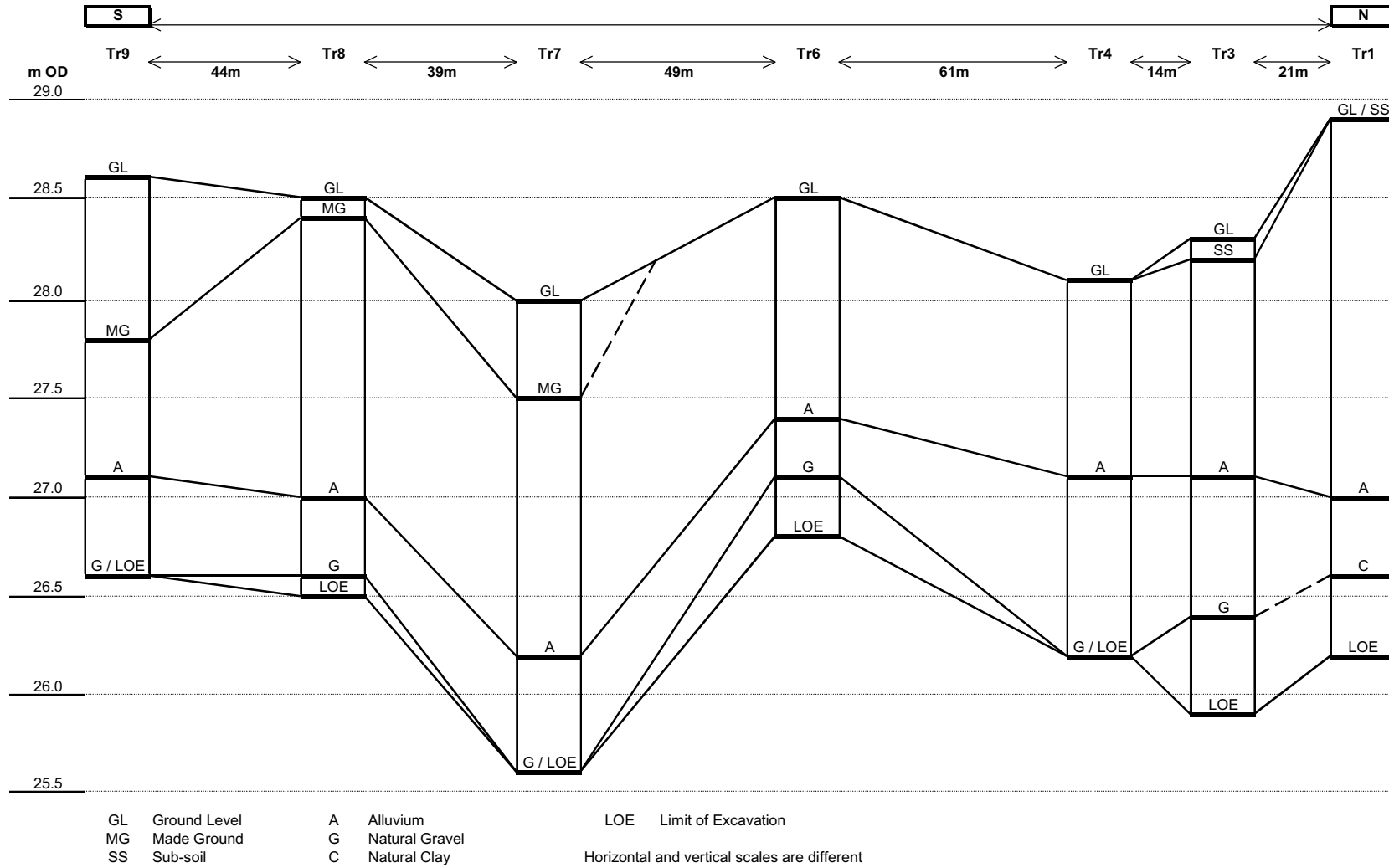


Section 6  
Southwest facing  
Trench 1



Figure 3  
Sections 1 & 6  
1:40 at A4

Figure 4: Schematic Deposit Model as revealed by the evaluation



## 9 INTERPRETATION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9.1. All evaluation trenches revealed natural deposits of either waterlain gravels or clay, which are consistent with the underlying drift geology of this area. They were recorded at comparable heights across the site, and suggest a low-lying gravel topography (Figure 4) traversed by braided stream channels, possibly from northwest to southeast. A single piece of struck flint recovered from the surface of the gravel in Trench 8 is a fine-grained brown flint blade, dating from the Mesolithic period. Activity from this period was not uncommon in the area of the site with significant remains of that date being found to the north near Uxbridge (B. Bishop, pers comm.). The blade was in a good condition and therefore may not have travelled far.
- 9.2 The natural ground was overlain by alluvial material in most of the trenches, indicative of the flooding of the site from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods. The driftwood recovered from the alluvium in Trench 1 is likely to have been washed onto the site from upstream and is therefore of limited archaeological value.
- 9.3 Layers of subsoil were recorded in four trenches in the northern part of the site. These are likely to have accumulated through early post-medieval periods as the site lay largely unutilised. Their absence from the southern and central areas of the site results from the large earthworks which were undertaken during the construction of the railway embankment in the 19th Century, manifest in the form of made ground layers concentrated in the south. The creation of this embankment would have required a source for the material, and it is possible that some degree of quarrying occurred on the site resulting in the lack of subsoil and other archaeological features. The cutting of the Grand Junction Canal at the end of the 18th century may have had the same effect on the site.
- 9.4 Areas of localised impact upon the underlying ground were seen to result from the more recent use of the site in the 20th Century. Specifically in the north of the site, a number of trenches became flooded with groundwater carrying traces of petrochemical contamination.
- 9.5 No archaeological features were found in any of the trenches.

## **10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Lorraine Darton of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of George Wimpey Ltd, and Jill Hummerstone of English Heritage for monitoring it on behalf of the London Borough of Hillingdon. We would also like to thank David Jacob of RSK and the demolition contractors for their assistance.

10.2 The author would like Mark Bagwell for supervising the first phase of the evaluation, and the site staff Tomasz Mazurkiewicz, Ashley Pooley, Des O'Donoghue and Gosha Malecka. Thanks to Chris Mayo for project managing the site and editing this report, Jem Rodgers for surveying, Barry Bishop for flint analysis, Dave Harris for the illustrations and Lisa Lonsdale for Logistics.

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Chadwick, P. 2003 'Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: Land at Honeywell Site, Trout Road, West Drayton', CgMs Consulting Unpublished Report.

Darton, L. & Chadwick, P. 2006 'Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation: Land at Trout Road, West Drayton, London Borough of Hillingdon', CgMs Consulting Unpublished Report.

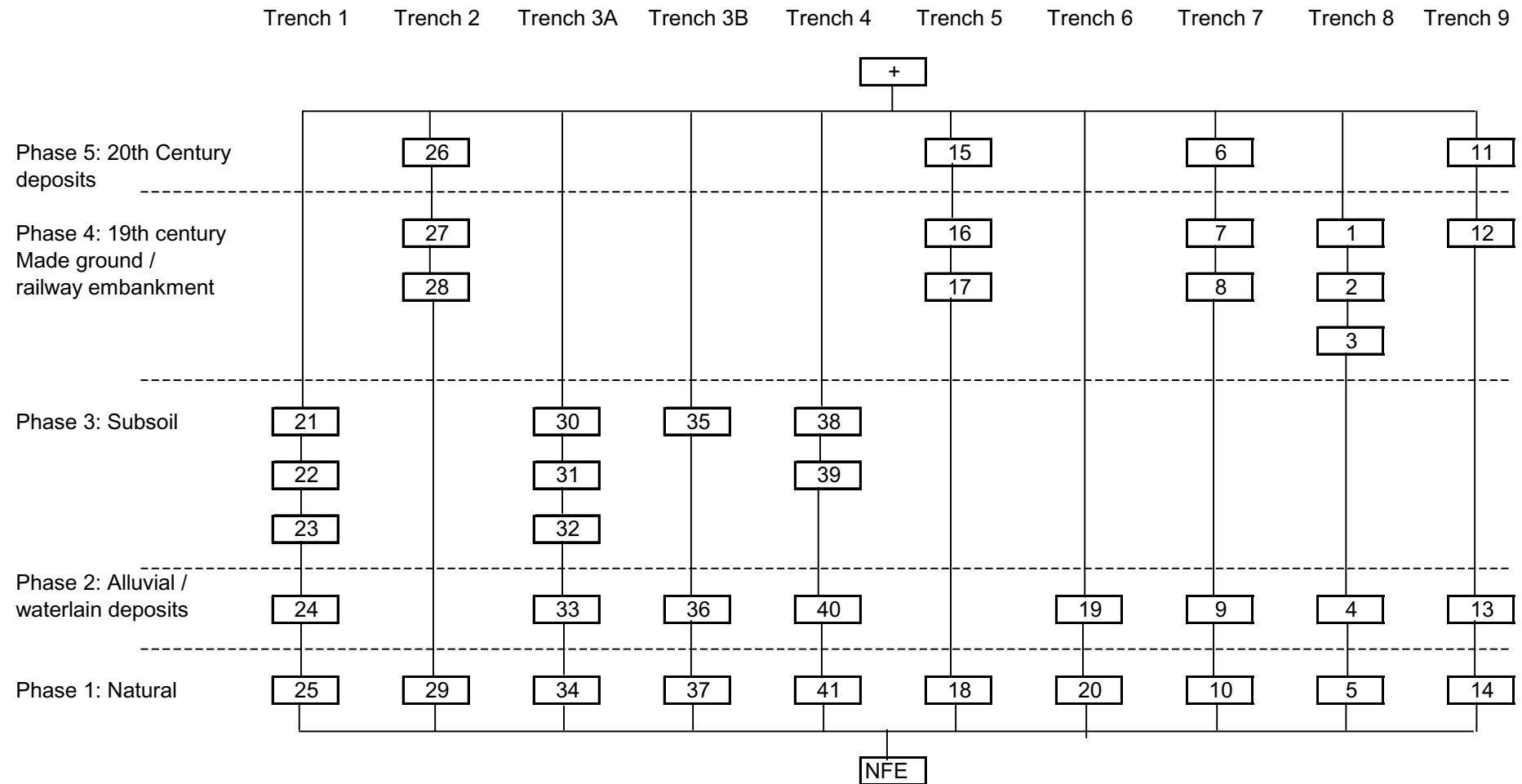
Darton, L. 2006 'Health and Safety Risk Assessment for Archaeological Investigations: Land at Trout Road, West Drayton', CgMs Consulting Unpublished Report.



## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Site Code	Context No.	Plan	Section / Elevation	Type	Description	Date	Phase	Photos No.
TDH 06	1	Tr. 8	S1	Layer	Made Ground Railway embankment	19th Century	4	1: 3-8 + 2:4-9 + D1:4-5
TDH 06	2	N/A	S1	Layer	Brick rubble Made Ground	19th Century	4	1: 3-8 + 2:4-9 + D1:4-5
TDH 06	3	N/A	S1	Layer	Gravel Made Ground	19th Century	4	1: 3-8 + 2:4-9 + D1:4-5
TDH 06	4	Tr 8	S1	Layer	Alluvium	Prehistoric	2	1: 3-8 + 2:4-9 + D1:4-5
TDH 06	5	Tr 8	S1	Layer	Gravel Natural	Prehistoric	1	1: 3-8 + 2:4-9 + D1:4-5
TDH 06	6	Tr 7	S2	Layer	Levelling Sand/ Concrete slab	Modern	5	1:9-14 + 2:10-15 + D1:6-7
TDH 06	7	Tr 7	S2	Layer	Made Ground Railway embankment	19th Century	4	1:9-14 + 2:10-15 + D1:6-7
TDH 06	8	N/A	S2	Layer	Brick rubble Made Ground	19th Century	4	1:9-14 + 2:10-15 + D1:6-7
TDH 06	9	Tr 7	S2	Layer	Alluvium	Prehistoric	2	1:9-14 + 2:10-15 + D1:6-7
TDH 06	10	Tr 7	S2	Layer	Gravel Natural	Prehistoric	1	1:9-14 + 2:10-15 + D1:6-7
TDH 06	11	Tr 9	S3	Layer	Levelling Sand/ Concrete slab	Modern	5	1:21-26 + 2:22-27 + D1:8-9
TDH 06	12	N/A	S3	Layer	Made Ground Railway embankment	19th Century	4	1:21-26 + 2:22-27 + D1:8-9
TDH 06	13	Tr 9	S3	Layer	Alluvium	Prehistoric	2	1:21-26 + 2:22-27 + D1:8-9
TDH 06	14	Tr 9	S3	Layer	Gravel Natural	Prehistoric	1	1:21-26 + 2:22-27 + D1:8-9
TDH 06	15	N/A	S4	Layer	Modern Made Ground	Modern	5	1:27-32 + 2:28-33 + D1:10-11
TDH 06	16	Tr 5	S4	Layer	Made Ground Railway embankment	19th Century	4	1:27-32 + 2:28-33 + D1:10-11
TDH 06	17	Tr 5	S4	Layer	Made Ground Railway embankment	19th Century	4	1:27-32 + 2:28-33 + D1:10-11
TDH 06	18	Tr 5	S4	Layer	Clay Natural	Prehistoric	1	1:27-32 + 2:28-33 + D1:10-11
TDH 06	19	N/A	S5	Layer	Alluvium	Prehistoric	2	1:15-20 + 2: 16-21 + D1:2-3
TDH 06	20	Tr 6	S5	Layer	Gravel Natural	Prehistoric	1	1:15-20 + 2: 16-21 + D1:2-3
TDH 06	21	N/A	S6	Layer	Ploughsoil	Post-Medieval	3	3:2-7 + 4:2-7 + D2:7
TDH 06	22	Tr 1	S6	Layer	Subsoil	Post-Medieval	3	3:2-7 + 4:2-7 + D2:7
TDH 06	23	N/A	S6	Layer	Dried Out' Alluvium	N/A	3	3:2-7 + 4:2-7 + D2:7
TDH 06	24	Tr 1	S6	Layer	Alluvium	Prehistoric	2	3:2-7 + 4:2-7 + D2:7
TDH 06	25	Tr 1	S6	Layer	Clay Natural	Prehistoric	1	3:2-7 + 4:2-7 + D2:7
TDH 06	26	N/A	S7	Layer	Modern Made Ground	Modern	5	3:8-13 + 4:8-13 + D2:6
TDH 06	27	N/A	S7	Layer	Clay Made Ground - embankment	19th Century	4	3:8-13 + 4:8-13 + D2:6
TDH 06	28	Tr 2	S7	Layer	Made Ground Railway embankment	19th Century	4	3:8-13 + 4:8-13 + D2:6
TDH 06	29	Tr 2	S7	Layer	Clay Natural	Prehistoric	1	3:8-13 + 4:8-13 + D2:6
TDH 06	30	N/A	S8	Layer	Ploughsoil	Post-Medieval	3	3:14-19 + 4:14-19 + D2:4-5
TDH 06	31	N/A	S8	Layer	Subsoil	Post-Medieval	3	3:14-19 + 4:14-19 + D2:4-5
TDH 06	32	N/A	S8	Layer	Subsoil	Post-Medieval	3	3:14-19 + 4:14-19 + D2:4-5
TDH 06	33	Tr 3A	S8	Layer	Alluvium	Prehistoric	2	3:14-19 + 4:14-19 + D2:4-5
TDH 06	34	Tr 3A	S8	Layer	Gravel Natural	Prehistoric	1	3:14-19 + 4:14-19 + D2:4-5
TDH 06	35	N/A	S9	Layer	Ploughsoil	Post-Medieval	3	3:26-31 + 4:26-31 + D2:3&5
TDH 06	36	Tr 3B	S9	Layer	Alluvium	Prehistoric	2	3:26-31 + 4:26-31 + D2:3&5
TDH 06	37	Tr 3B	S9	Layer	Gravel Natural	Prehistoric	1	3:26-31 + 4:26-31 + D2:3&5
TDH 06	38	N/A	S10	Layer	Ploughsoil	Post-Medieval	3	3:20-25 + 4:20-25 + D2:2
TDH 06	39	N/A	S10	Layer	Subsoil	Post-Medieval	3	3:20-25 + 4:20-25 + D2:2
TDH 06	40	Tr 4	S10	Layer	Alluvium	Prehistoric	2	3:20-25 + 4:20-25 + D2:2
TDH 06	41	Tr 4	S10	Layer	Gravel Natural	Prehistoric	1	3:20-25 + 4:20-25 + D2:2

**APPENDIX 2: SITE MATRIX**



## APPENDIX 3: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-23201

### Project details

Project name	Land at Trout Road, West Drayton
Short description of the project	An evaluation undertaken at on the site of the former Honeywell factory on Trout Road, West Drayton. Consisting of ten trenches the work was undertaken in two phases. Phase I-Trenches 5-9 in the southern and central parts of the site and Phase II-Trenches 1,2,3A, 3B, and 4 in the north-eastern portion of the site. No discrete archaeological deposits were found. The earliest deposits encountered were natural clay and gravels in which traces of residual pre-historic material (struck and burnt flint were recovered) was superseded by post-med ploughsoil and in parts truncated by the remnants of made ground that were deposited to create the embankment for the Uxbridge branch of the Great Western Railway in the 19th Century.
Project dates	Start: 04-12-2006 End: 25-01-2007
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	TDH 06 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial
Monument type	RAILWAY EMBANKMENT Post Medieval
Monument type	PLOUGHSOIL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	STRUCK FLINT Mesolithic
Significant Finds	BURNT FLINT Undated
Significant Finds	POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds	CLAY TOBACCO PIPE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	GLASS Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Sample Trenches','Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON HILLINGDON YIEWSLEY AND WEST DRAYTON Trout Road, West Drayton
Postcode	UB7 7XX
Study area	9.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 055 807 51.5148721270 -0.479424676058 51 30 53 N 000 28 45 W Point
Site coordinates	TQ 055 807 51.5148721270 -0.479424676058 51 30 53 N 000 28 45 W Point
Height OD	Min: 25.65m Max: 27.27m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Lorraine Darton
Project director/manager	Chris Mayo
Project supervisor	James Young Langthorne
Type of sponsor/funding body	George Wimpey Ltd

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	LAARC
Physical Archive ID	TDH 06
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Archive ID	TDH 06
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Survey'
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Archive ID	TDH 06
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Miscellaneous Material','Plan','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Evaluation on Land at Trout Road, West Drayton, London Borough of Hillingdon
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Langthorne, J.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	London
Description	A4 Softcover grey literature report
Entered by	archivist (archive@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	30 January 2007